

# ON SALVATION, SATAN & ETERNITY

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[These notes are from 40 years ago when I spoke to a group of pastors.

The notes are in outline form.]

### On Salvation

Genesis 1 and 2 teach us that man was:

- made in the image and likeness of God (1:31; 2:25)
- without guilt or shame (1:31; 2:25)

The first human being had a perfect relationship with God.

The Lord gave man one command:

- he was not to eat the fruit of one certain tree in the garden
- if he did, man would die.

Man did eat of the fruit of that tree and was overcome with shame and guilt (Genesis 3:1-13)

At that moment he experienced spiritual death (separation from God) and would also experience emotional, mental and social death.

At the age of 930, Adam died physically.

God was not caught unaware when man disobeyed.

God revealed His eternal plan for saving man from everlasting separation from God.

The Lord would send a Man (Seed of the woman) who would provide the promised redemption (Genesis 3:15).

I believe that Jesus Christ is that Man – who would "save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:18-23).

Jesus came to give His life for mankind. His disciples spoke of Him as being our "Savior" (Titus 3:6; 2 Peter 2:20; 1 John 4:14)

The Apostle Paul taught this about the need for salvation:

- all people are sinners and separated from God (Romans 3:23)
- people who believe in Jesus Christ receive a position of justification before God through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24)
- Jesus Christ was the propitiation (payment) for our sins (Romans 3:25)

The source of our salvation is found in:

- God's grace (Ephesians 2:5, 8)
- God's love (Romans 5:8)
- God's mercy (Titus 3:5)
- Christ alone (Acts 4:12)

The Cross of Christ (1 Corinthians 1:18)

The Bible teaches plainly that:

- salvation comes through faith alone
- salvation is not something we earn or deserve
- salvation is a free gift that God gives to us because of His kindness toward us

The Apostle Paul told a man long ago that salvation becomes ours as we place our full and complete trust in Jesus Christ the Lord (Acts 16:31).

We receive the gift of eternal life (salvation) through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23).

#### On Satan

Satan is the enemy of God and man. He is called –

- the angel of the bottomless pit (Revelation 9:11)
- Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15)
- god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- murderer (John 8:44)
- liar and the father of lies (John 8:44)
- prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2)
- ruler of darkness (Ephesians 6:12)
- the wicked one (Matthew 13:19)
- the old serpent (Revelation 20:2)
- prince of demons (Matthew 12:24)
- the devil (Ephesians 6:11)

Satan was an angel of God, but his heart was lifted up in pride and conceit (1 Timothy 3:6). Now he is –

- wicked (1 John 2:13)
- slanderous (Job 1:9)
- deceitful (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- fierce (Luke 8:29)

Satan has great power over the non-Christian to –

- blind them (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- deceive them (Revelation 20:7-8)
- ensnare them (1 Timothy 3:7)

Non-Christians will be punished with Satan (Matthew 25:41) and the day is coming when the devil will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

I believe that Satan is actively involved in opposing the Christian –

- Paul speaks of Satan's tricks and power and how to fight him (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- Christians are told to resist the devil (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9)
- Jesus triumphed over the devil which means we triumph over Satan as well (Genesis 3:15; Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23)

I am not "scared to death" of Satan, but neither do I treat his power and activity lightly. I believe Christians should be alert and watchful at all times.

## On Eternity

Eternity is a timeless, spaceless dimension of real existence where God dwells (Isaiah 57:15). Each human being of times past, present and future is headed for that dimension.

#### The Christian will receive -

- eternal life (John 3:15-16)
- eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12)
- eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:9)
- an eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15)
- eternal glory (1 Peter 5:10)
- an eternal reward (John 4:36)
- eternal consolation (2 Thessalonians 2:16)
- an eternal name (Isaiah 56:5)
- eternal light (Isaiah 60:19-20)
- eternal joy (Isaiah 51:11)
- Heaven (Luke 16:9)

#### The non-Christian will receive –

- eternal damnation (Mark 3:29)
- eternal judgment (Hebrews 6:2)

- eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46)
- eternal destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:9)
- eternal contempt (Daniel 12:2)
- eternal fire (Matthew 25:41).

We should be excited about our eternal destiny as children of God. It sounds like a beautiful and satisfying life forever and ever. We may enter eternity through death or by being taken out of time and space through a miraculous act of God (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52). At the time of transformation our bodies will be changed and we will be imperishable and immortal (1 Corinthians 15:53-54).

The Bible does not tell us when we will die or when we will be taken out of time through a miracle of God, but it will happen!

[Thank you for reading these teaching notes from 40 years ago. My prayer is they will be a blessing to you and your ministry.]

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